

IT IS CLAIMED:

1. An oral-delivery composition for use in treating HCV in a HCV-infected patient comprising ovine IFN- τ , in a dosage effective to stimulate bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase.

2. The oral-delivery composition of claim 1, which further comprises an oral-delivery vehicle containing IFN- τ , wherein said oral-delivery vehicle is effective to release the IFN- τ in active form in the digestive tract.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the vehicle is effective to release ovine IFN- τ in the stomach or intestines.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is between $10^8 - 10^{10}$ Units/day.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 1×10^8 Units/day.

6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 2×10^8 Units/day.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 4×10^8 Units/day.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 1×10^9 Units/day.

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 4×10^9 Units/day.

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ is greater than about 7×10^9 Units/day.

11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- τ avoids the *tunica mucosa oris*.

12. The composition of claim 1, in combination with ribavirin.

13. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HCV comprising:
ovine IFN- τ as an effective ingredient, wherein said composition avoids the absorption of
ovine IFN- τ through the *tunica mucosa oris*.

14. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hepatitis caused by HCV
comprising ovine IFN- τ as an effective ingredient.

15. A 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase activity inducer in animals other than sheep
comprising ovine IFN- τ .

16. A method of monitoring treatment of HCV by oral administration of ovine IFN- τ
comprising:
measuring the blood levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase prior to and after such oral
administration, and if necessary
adjusting the dose of IFN- τ until a measurable increase in blood 2', 5'-oligoadenylate
synthetase level, relative to the level observed prior to administration, is observed.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said adjusting includes increasing the dose above
10⁸ units.